



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Kansas City District

Information Paper

Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Columbia Bottom, MO



View of the levee setback construction

Contact

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Location

2.5 miles north of the I-270 Riverview Drive exit, in north St. Louis County, Missouri at the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area (CBCA).

Description

The CBCA is existing public land owned and operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). CBCA is approximately 4,300 acres in size. The site is on the right descending bank of the Missouri River, at the confluence with the Mississippi River.

The land at the Columbia Bottom mitigation site was previously farmed. The area is being improved so that wetlands, native grasses, and bottomland hardwood forest habitats can be restored to the area. Due to the size of the site, the mitigation will occur in several phases.

Phase I has been completed. Phase I consisted of an 800 foot setback of an existing agricultural levee. The setback will move the existing levee from the Mississippi River bank to create additional land on the riverside of the levee. The setback allows the spring time high river stages to flow out onto the floodplain creating excellent feeding areas for fish. The additional land will be planted with bottomland hardwood habitat.

Phase II of the mitigation is currently under construction. This work includes development of approx. 800 acres of wetlands by construction of 15 low dikes, a pump station, and a water delivery system. Once completed, Phase II will allow development of high quality migratory waterfowl habitat. Construction of Phase II is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2004.

Upon completion of construction, MDC will assume operation and management of the constructed features. The area will be planted with native prairie grasses and will be available to the public for a variety of outdoor activities including bird watching, hiking and hunting when in season.



View of existing wetland area at Columbia Bottom